

ESTONIAN AVIATION ACADEMY
STRATEGY FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
2016 – 2020

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Introduction

Estonian Aviation Academy (the Academy) is a state professional higher education institution preparing highly qualified aviation specialists, providing in-service training on demand, developing cooperation with various stakeholders of aviation industry, and advancing aviation culture in line with the needs of the state and in compliance with international requirements.

The Academy study process is built up on a flexible system of study modules. Teaching and instruction is carried out by regular teaching staff and by practising specialists from aviation enterprises and partner higher education institutions.

All this contributes to ensuring the stable quality and to the compliance of the activities with the requirements established by the ICAO (the International Civil Aviation Organisation) and EASA (the European Aviation Safety Agency), which in its turn ensures high competitiveness of the Academy graduates in the labour market.

The Strategy for International Cooperation for 2016–2020 proceeds from the Academy internal and external regulations which the Academy activities are based on, from the *Estonian Lifelong Learning Strategy 2020* and from the strategic goals set out in the Academy Development Plan for 2016–2020.

General goal

The Strategy for International Cooperation establishes the general goals of the Academy international cooperation, the course of action proceeding from general goals, the activities for the specified strategic period, and the performance indicators to evaluate the efficiency of application of the strategy as well as the efficiency of international cooperation.

The general goals of international cooperation are as follows:

1. Enhancing the international visibility and competitiveness of the Academy by expanding its research and development activities and by quality assurance.
2. Providing the Academy graduates with international experience and highly valuing the teaching staff by offering opportunities for professional development and by the motivation system.
3. Increasing the coherence between the Academy and aviation industry and the society as a whole.

To reach the goals set on international cooperation the activities are formulated in the following courses of action:

1. Internationalisation of the study process and the R&D activities in cooperation with foreign partners.
2. Organisation of international cooperation with the present and new partners from abroad.
3. Development of the environment supportive to international cooperation.
4. Adequate funding of the activities of international cooperation.

Activities and performance indicators of international cooperation

1. Internationalisation of the study process and the R&D activities in cooperation with foreign partners.

Activity	Activity	2016	2018	2020
1.1 Ensuring the Academy students opportunities for academic mobility and supporting their participation in mobility	All the students have an opportunity to participate in academic mobility and every year a certain proportion of students participate in mobility	4%	5%	6%
1.2 Participation of international visiting students of partner higher education institutions in the studies	A stable ratio of foreign visiting students to the Academy student body	7%	7%	7%
1.3 Participation in academic mobility of the staff members carrying out teaching with the aim of delivering lectures or developing themselves professionally	Increasing the ratio of staff members carrying out teaching having participated in mobility activities to the total of the staff	10%	50%	75%
1.4 Further development of the opportunities for English medium speciality studies	Speciality departments that have created the opportunity for English medium speciality studies	0	2	4
1.5 Speciality departments seek for the opportunities for speciality practical training abroad	Places for practical training within the framework of academic mobility found by speciality departments	1	2	4
1.6 A more intensive international cooperation between the speciality departments and cooperation partners	Speciality departments that have a steady cooperation partner in training and/or R&D activities	1	2	5
1.7 Engagement of international lecturers and specialists in the Academy study process	Ratio of foreign lecturers and specialists participating in the study process to the total of staff members conducting teaching within an academic year	15%		
1.8 Organisation of international in-service training	Ratio of English medium in-service training courses to the total of in-service courses carried out in an academic year	15%	25%	50%

1.9 Carrying out the study process in compliance with international regulations (ICAO, EASA)	The study process of internationally certified specialities is carried out by recognised training organisations	3	3	4
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2. Organisation of international cooperation with the present and new partners from abroad

Activity	Indicator	2016	2018	2020
2.1 The Academy participates in the EU programme for education, training, youth and sport “Erasmus+ 2014–2020“	The Academy has been issued the Erasmus Higher Education Charter and its principles are followed	Participation of the Academy students and staff members as well as of the foreign visiting students and teaching staff in the activities of academic mobility		
2.2 The Development Department shall advance the Academy R&D capability and look for cooperation partners in doing aviation related applied research	International cooperation partners whom with there is active cooperation in aviation related research	0	1	3
2.3 Renewal of cooperation agreements with partner higher education institutions and, if needed, concluding the new agreements	Cooperation agreements are in force; new agreements will be concluded in the case of need or demand	20		
2.4 Organisation of aviation events of international scale	Aviation events on an international scale per annum	2		
2.5 Based on the Academy Language Centre conducting ICAO English language proficiency testing for aviation personnel in Estonia	The Academy Language Centre offers ICAO English language proficiency testing, including to stakeholders outside of the Academy	There are about 80 test-takers per annum and the Academy covers the need for such testing of its region		

3. Development of the environment supportive to international cooperation

Activity	Indicator	2016	2018	2020
3.1 Updating the courses delivered in English, creating new ones and providing them with e-learning support	English medium courses are updated and new ones created. The courses are provided with e-learning support	20%	50%	90%
3.2 Creation and application of massive open e-learning	Massive open e-learning courses (MOOC) have been	0	1	2

courses (MOOC) with the aim of enhancing international visibility and introducing learning opportunities	created and applied			
3.3 Social and academic support to international visiting students	International visiting students' satisfaction with the academic and social support and the tutors (students with the experience in international academic mobility) as well as with information flow is continually high	Feedback given via <i>Mobility Tool system</i> scores 4.0 as a minimum		
3.4 Ensuring a smooth flow of information on academic mobility	Information on academic mobility on the Academy homepage, on the information stands and in other channels is up-to-date and available on time. Speciality departments have been informed of the issues of academic mobility	The parties related to academic mobility have got up-to-date and relevant information		
3.5 Valuing and motivating the staff engaged in teaching with the aim of furthering the English medium studies	The staff members delivering English medium courses have opportunities for professional development (specialist knowledge, digital competences, methodology), and the Academy salary system motivates to create more English medium courses	The needs-based training courses have been included in the Academy training calendar and the volume and quality of English medium courses meets the objectives set forth for the present period		
3.6 The Language Centre provides support to the teaching staff running English medium courses	The Language Centre provides support with the English language – translation, proofreading and editing of teaching/learning materials	The teaching staff running their courses in English have been ensured constant support by the Language Centre		
3.7 Testing the knowledge of foreign languages of the staff engaged in teaching, and if needed, enabling them to take foreign language courses	The ratio of staff engaged in teaching whose knowledge of a foreign language is Level B2 (CEF) as a minimum	70%	90%	100%
3.8 Requirements set on knowledge of foreign language for the candidates participating in the	Requirements have been set for competitions for academic positions and evaluation of qualification	Requirements for the knowledge of academic foreign language during the whole period		

competition for academic positions and evaluating their qualification		
3.9 Ensuring international image building	Information and Marketing Department together with the other structural units creates an adequate amount of materials in foreign languages, and ensures that there are updated materials introducing the Academy, and mementos to present to guests and visitors. The information on the Academy homepage is up-to-date	The amount of materials and mementos advertising the Academy is sufficient for a successful image building, and the information on the Academy English medium homepage is up-to-date

4. Adequate funding of the activities of international cooperation

Activity	Indicator	2016	2018	2020
4.1 Inclusion of financial resources in the Academy budget for the development of international cooperation	To fulfil the tasks the Academy includes needs- and action-based financial resources in its budget	Needs- and action-based financial resources have been included in the Academy budget every year, in the planning of which the finances needed for international cooperation have been taken account of, whereby the accuracy of financial reports is ensured		
4.2 Rational planning of financial resources	Necessary resources have been allocated for international cooperation in the budget of the Academy and its structural units			
4.3 Ensuring the accuracy of financial reports	The Academy financial reports on the use of allocated finances are accurate			